



CITY OF COLUMBIA
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Mayor

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June 15, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

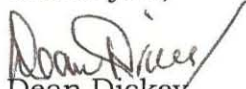
Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Columbia, Tennessee is the heart of Maury County. Not only are we located centrally, but there is something for everyone. We are close to the state capital, Nashville, and provide opportunities for people to peruse their interest in historical homes, sports, antiques, shopping, and mules. Now I know the days of the mule are long gone in DC, although they did play a major role on the C&O Canal, but in Columbia we celebrate this fine beast. A week in April is devoted entirely to the four-legged animal that played such an instrumental role in the settlement of our community. The annual Mule Day Parade attracts over 100,000 spectators from throughout the United States and abroad. Our city is also home of the eleventh president, James K. Polk.

I could go on and on about how great the city of Columbia is in a letter that would far exceed this page. But what I really want to tell you about is that is how Columbia would benefit from the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile USA. We need more than historical prowess to attract people to our great city. We need reliable wireless services. The merger would create a wireless infrastructure that would support the needs of citizens. Rural areas are often underserved when it comes to wireless access and quality and this needs to change.

The citizens of Columbia, past and present, remember the way in which technology completely changed their lives. While the mule was essential in our development, the introduction of the car, telephone, computer, and internet also played a large role and were particularly important to bring Columbia to the modern age. While rural life embodies many aspects of Americana, we still need to have modern day means to live. We need up-to-date technology, so we need this merger. Please approve this merger and help our cities like Columbia. We would really benefit and appreciate your support.

Thank you,


Dean Dickey
Mayor